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Furthermore, the 35mer when expressed from a genetic construct, protected Schwann cells against NGF-induced death. c35 when expressed in soluble form can also protect cells against membrane bound c35. The inventors show in Figure 7 that soluble c35 can also protect against membrane-linked, expressed c35. A truncated form of c35, a 29mer (SEQ ID NO:11 and SEQ ID NO:12), also protected against membrane-bound c35, when in soluble form.--

In the Claims:

Please replace original Claim 9 with Claim 9, as revised:

- 9. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to any one of the proceeding claims comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary form under low stringency conditions.--

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[Please replace original Claim 10 with Claim 10, as revised:]

- 10. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9 comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:7 or its complementary form under low stringency conditions or a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% identity to SEQ ID NO:7.--

[Please replace original Claim 12 with Claim 12, as revised:]

12. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence:

$\{n_1 \text{ --- } n_x\}_b \text{ a } \{n'_1 \text{ --- } n'_y\}_c \text{ a } \{n''_1 \text{ --- } n''_z\}_d$

wherein

$\{n_1 \text{ --- } n_x\}$ is a sequence of x nucleotides encoding an extracellular portion of a receptor or ligand-binding molecule;

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$\{n'_1 - - - n'_y\}$ is a sequence of y nucleotides encoding a transmembrane peptide, polypeptide or protein or a molecule capable of inducing multimerisation;

$\{n''_1 - - - n''_z\}$ is a sequence of z nucleotides comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:7 or a complementary form thereof under low stringency conditions such as at 42° C or a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% identity to SEQ ID NO:7;

b, c and d may be the same or different and each is 0, 1 or >1 ;

x, y and z may be the same or different and each is 0, 1 or >1 ;

a is a nucleotide bond;

wherein when c is 1 or >1 and d is 1 or >1 and wherein when the molecule is expressed in a neuronal cell, the expression product signals, induces or otherwise facilitates cell death.--

[Please replace original Claim 13 with Claim 13, as revised:]

- 13. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 12 wherein $\{n_1 - - - n_x\}$ comprises the nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 60% identity thereto or is capable of hybridizing thereto under low stringency conditions at 42° C.--

[Please replace original Claim 14 with Claim 14, as revised:]